

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 3, 2007, which set a three-month period for response. Filed herewith is a Request for a One-month Extension of Time, making this amendment due by August 3, 2007.

Claims 12-14, 16-18, and 20-27 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, claims 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 12, 14, 24, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,823,090 to Kawamuro. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamura as applied to claim 12 above, in view of applicant's admitted prior art of Fig. 2. Claims 17, 18, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamura as applied to claim 12 above.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 16, 22, and 23 if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and the allowance of claim 15 if rewritten to overcome the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, and to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present amendment, allowable claims 16, 22, and 23 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 25, 26, and 27, respectively.

Claim 12 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention over the cited references, which the Applicants submit also addresses the rejection of claim 15 under Section 112, second paragraph. Claim 19 has been cancelled.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the primary reference to Kawamuro does not disclose all of the features of amended claim 12, specifically, the newly added feature of *a hydraulic power-steering pump, wherein said hydraulic power-steering pump supplies the servo-valve device via a first hydraulic line and supplies the retroactive device via a second hydraulic line AND the feature that the at least one valve means is a pressure regulating valve that is disposed in series with the servo-valve device in the first hydraulic line, and wherein a pressure control valve and a proportional valve are disposed hydraulically in series with the retroactive device in the second hydraulic line.*

None of the cited references discloses or suggests a power steering system with a retroactive device in which a pressure regulating valve is disposed between the hydraulic pump and the servo valve. This is an important difference, since generally servo valves are called "open center valves", which means that in the center position of the servo valve, all fluid channels are open and the valve represents a very low hydraulic resistance. The hydraulic pump essentially feeds hydraulic fluid into an open pipe and does not produce a significant pressure. Without a pressure build-up before the servo valve, the retroactive device cannot operate. Thus, the retroactive devices of the cited reference operate only if the servo valve is out of the center position, that is, the driver uses the steering wheel to a certain extent.

In contrast, with the present invention, a certain pressure level is provided between the pump and the servo valve. This pressure level operates on the retroactive device, which, accordingly, can turn the servo valve out of the center position even if the driver does not operate the steering wheel. This is necessary for automatic parking of the car when the driver does not even touch the wheel, for example.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Kawamuro is not a proper reference under 35 USC 102 pursuant to the guidelines set forth in the last paragraph of MPEP section 2131, where it is stated that "a claim is anticipated only if each and every

element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference", and that "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim".

Because independent claim 12 is patentable for the reasons set forth above, its dependent claims are patentable on the same grounds.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "B".

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